



VOICE OF TRUTH MISSION TRIP

A new ministry initiative of St. Paul Community, Pontiac and Living Word, Rochester began as its first low cost educational mission trip this past July. Voice of Truth's (VOT) first mission trip was centered in the City of Pontiac. Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District provided a generous startup grant which tremendously supported the flawless beginning.

Twenty-five youth and five adult chaperones from three different churches attended the weeklong event. VOT's mission is to equip youth to share their faith in Jesus Christ by giving them the tools to be HIS hands and feet. This past summer, a Block Party was held as a community outreach as well as Back Yard Bible Clubs. The youth worked five mornings com-

pleting projects such as: cleaning Beaudette Park in Pontiac, cleaning up the area around St. Paul's, helping with yard cleanups, and digging post holes. Fun, fellowship, and devotions took place each evening and praise and worship music was provided by Living Word's Praise Team. The youth at the beginning of the week were a little anxious about the work, but by mid-week they were already not looking forward to leaving on Saturday morning.

Next year's event will be July 18-25, 2009. Youth who have completed 7th grade, up to those who have completed 12th grade, may attend. Every seven youth need one chaperone. Registration information can be found at www.votmission.org or by calling Michele Dober at 248.651.5316 extension 114.

EAST TO WEST MISSIONS HELPING THOSE WHO "GO INTO ALL NATIONS ..."

Tim and Diana Bauer, members of Trinity, Reese, have taken on the challenge of lessening the financial burden on those who are working towards overseas mission trips. Their non-profit organization, East To West Missions, gives \$400 grants to students and part-time and self-employed individuals.

Tim, a self-employed person, understands what it takes to juggle finances to be away from work, but also knows how much of an impact going on a short-term mission trip can have upon one's life as he has been on seven himself. He has been blessed with a group of people who financially made it possible for him to go on trips and now would like to pass that blessing along to others.

The cost of a short-term mission trip can be anywhere from \$1,200 for nearby countries to \$3,000 plus for European countries. Although relatively new, East to West Missions has given out seven grants and currently has three applications in the wings.

Paul Sebald, a self-employed graphic artist and sign maker from Frankenmuth, said, "The Lord has led me into the mission field in the last couple years. Mission

work has profoundly changed me and I will never be the same person I was

before my first mission trip to Dominican Republic in 2007. In 2008, I had the opportunity to go to Guatemala twice and jumped at the chance to serve our Lord. Funding two trips can be challenging. I was very grateful to have East To West Missions as another source of financial assistance to lessen the out-of-pocket expenses."

Katie Spencer, another grant recipient states, "My mission trip to Guatemala was truly life-changing. It was my first mission trip, and the impact it had will always be with me. My eyes were opened to a different way of life and the work we did was very rewarding. I'll always remember the people we helped, and it is my hope that the work we did will have lasting benefits."

The Bauers have been on short-term mission trips with MOST Ministries, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), and Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. For more information about the organization, visit www.easttowestmissions.org.

